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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO.

# INFORMATION REPORT

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**STUDIES**

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE DISTR. 31 Mar 1949

SUBJECT Changes in the Deutsche Handelsgesellschaft  
and the Deutsche Wirtschafts-Kommission  
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DATE OF INFO. Late February 1949  
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SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

1. The Deutsche Handelsgesellschaft (DHG) is about to be dissolved. In its place will be established some ten or twelve "Handels-Zentralen". The first of these, already organized, is the "Handels-Zentrale für Metallurgie". A capitalization of six million marks has been allowed to establish this office. Other similar Zentralen will be concerned with trade in chemicals, textiles, machinery, minerals, etc. The question still to be decided is, to whom these trading offices shall be responsible. It is presumed that each will be attached to one of the main administrations in the DWK. Opposition to this idea was offered by some leading DWK officials on the ground that it would disrupt their entire planning for the year. The budgets for the various departments have been fixed, and to take on additional burdens and an increased staff would throw everything out of gear.
2. The "Hauptverwaltung für Material und Versorgung" is to be divided into three "Hauptverwaltungen". In general these will be organized around the three functions of planning, supply, and distribution of consumers' goods.
3. Erwin Kerber, chief of the DWK "Hauptverwaltung für Material und Versorgung", is about to be relieved. His successor has not yet been named. Kerber will probably be given some other post, as the dismissal does not rest on a question of political reliability, but results from Kerber's alleged lack of organizing ability.

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